What can I do to conserve water?

There are many things you can do to conserve water. Running your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full can save up to 1,000 gallons a month. Watering your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler will help minimize evaporation. Shortening your shower by a minute or two can save up to 150 gallons per month. Turning off the water while you are brushing your teeth can save up to 25 gallons per month. Also, take time to review your water bill on a regular basis as this can help you quickly realize if there are leaks in your system.

Tap vs. Bottled, Rethinking What You Are Drinking

When choosing the water you want to drink, it is often easy to be convinced that bottled water is healthier for you than tap water, but in truth is it? The answer, thanks to a study by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is not always. First, approximately 25 percent of bottled water is – in reality – bottled tap water. Additionally, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates bottled water; however, their testing standards are not as rigorous as the ones required by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for tap water. Moreover, FDA oversight does not apply to water that is packaged and sold within the same state. According to the NRDC's report, this leaves approximately 60 -70 percent of bottled water, including the contents of watercooler jugs, free of FDA regulation.

It is estimated that people spend almost 5,000 times more per gallon of bottled water than they would for tap water. For those who get their recommended eight glasses of water a day, you could be saving over $1,000 annually if you switched to tap water!

What can I do to keep my pet's water bowl clean and free of germs?

There are several ways to keep your pet's water bowls clean. If you choose to hand wash pet bowls, use a mild detergent and warm water. Rinse the bowls thoroughly to ensure no residue is left behind. The chemicals in the residue could upset your dog's stomach. Most bowls can withstand high temperatures and can be run through the dishwasher. Run the dishwasher on the sanitize cycle, which is the highest temperature setting, to rid the bowls of as many germs and bacteria as possible. With both methods, it is important to keep the dog's dishes separate from your own to prevent contamination.

City of Cedartown
201 East Avenue
Cedartown, GA 30125

Community Participation

We want our valued customers to be informed about your community and water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month beginning at 6 p.m at City Hall, 201 East Avenue in the council room.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Donna Atkins, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, at (770) 748-1225.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

City of
Cedartown
PWS ID #GA2330000

2013 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

2013 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

PWS ID #GA2330000

Our Drinking Water Is Regulated

The City of Cedartown is pleased to share this report with you. This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis covers January 1 through December 31, 2013, and was made by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

Source of Drinking Water

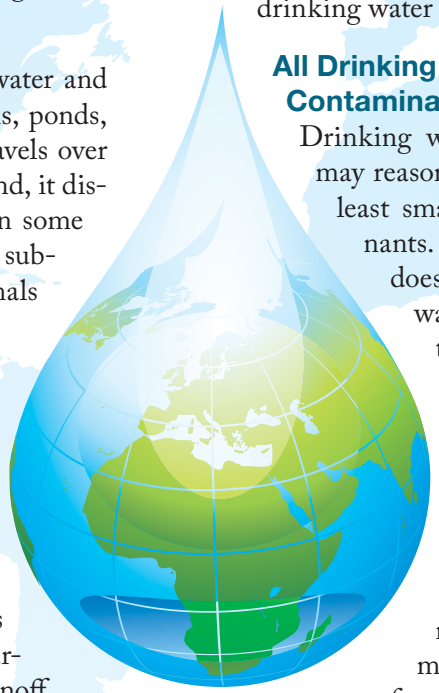
The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

The City of Cedartown water customers are fortunate because we enjoy a ground water supply from Big Spring located on Wissahickon Avenue. The City of Cedartown Water Treatment Plant draws water from Big Spring. Our treatment facility provides roughly 600 million gallons of clean drinking water every year.



All Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Required Additional Health Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Cedartown is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Source Water Assessment

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division has completed a Source Water Assessment for the City of Cedartown. The assessment reveals that the water system's susceptibility to potential sources of contamination is minimal. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting the City of Cedartown at (770) 748-1225.

Ground Water Monitoring in Georgia

The Georgia Environmental Division is collecting ground water samples from approximately 60 sampling stations from aquifers distributed throughout Georgia. This Ground Water Monitoring Network is used to assess the general quality of ground water in Georgia. Big Spring was included in this ground water monitoring, and the results revealed that our spring DID NOT exceed the U.S. EPA's Primary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), Secondary MCLs, or action levels. The EPA Primary and Secondary MCLs, which apply only to TREATED water offered for public consumption, were used merely as a guideline for rating the quality of raw ground water.

The analyses performed on the samples included testing for chloride, combined nitrate and nitrite, sulfate, volatile organic compounds (solvents, gasoline components, etc.), and a variety of metals.

2013 Test Results

PWS ID #GA2330000

We routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The test results table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2013. In the table you might find terms and abbreviations you are not familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Definitions

- **Action Level (AL) –** the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Action Level Goal (ALG) –** the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Avg. –** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) –** the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. Secondary MCLs are unenforceable guidelines for aesthetic quality of water.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) –** the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) –** the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) –** the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **NA –** not applicable.
- **ND –** not detected.
- **TT –** treatment technique.
- **NTU –** Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) –** micrograms per liter (µg/L) or one ounce in 7,800,000 gallons of water.
- **Parts per million (ppm) –** milligrams per liter (mg/L) or one ounce in 7,800 gallons of water.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Inorganic Contaminants

Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride (ppm)	2013	4	4	0.68	0.2-1.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive which promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate/Nitrite (ppm)	2013	10	10	0.77	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Turbidity

Allowable Levels	Violation Yes/No	Average	Range of Detections	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit	Likely Source
No more than 1 NTU* Less than 0.3 NTU in 95% of monthly samples	No	0.12	0.03-0.33	100	Soil runoff

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts							
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Average	Range Low-High	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] (ppb)	2013	80	NA	4.6	3.2-6.3	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2013	60	NA	0.61	ND-1.24	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Lead and Copper Contaminants							
Substance (Unit of Measure)	AL	MCLG	Year Sampled	90th Percentile	# of sites found above AL	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppb)	1,300	1,300	2011	120	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	15	0	2011	2.5	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits